

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A liquid separator for separating liquid entrained in a gas flow, said separator comprising a housing with a cover having an inlet and an outlet for a gas to be purified and a drain for separated liquid; a mount for a separating cartridge; and a substantially cylindrical separating cartridge received on said mount; wherein said separating cartridge comprises a separating means wound around a support member with end disks on both axial end faces thereof; wherein said end disks engage the mount to form a seal and together with the support member form a sealed assembly which divides the separator into an untreated gas zone and a treated gas zone, and wherein the mount is constructed as a nipple that is gas permeable in the area between the end disks of the separating cartridge.

2. A liquid separator according to claim 1, wherein said separating means comprises a nonwoven fabric.

3. A liquid separator according to claim 1, wherein said gas flow comprises crankcase gases of an internal combustion engine.

4. A liquid separator according to claim 1, wherein the separating cartridge is completely non-metallic.

5. A liquid separator according to claim 1, wherein the separating means and the support member are embedded in at least one end disk made of nitrile-butadiene rubber.

6. A liquid separator according to claim 1, wherein at least one end disk is made of a multi-component synthetic resin material.

7. A liquid separator according to claim 1, wherein at least one end disk is bonded with an adhesive to the separating means and to the support member.

8. A liquid separator according to claim 7, wherein said separating means is a nonwoven fabric.

9. A liquid separator according to claim 1, wherein the separating means is compressed in the area of at least one end disk to form or support the seal.

10. A liquid separator according to claim 9, wherein said separating means is a nonwoven fabric.

11. A liquid separator according to claim 1, wherein the support member and at least one end disk are constructed as a single part.

12. A liquid separator according to claim 1, further comprising locking members provided where the end disks engage the mount to fix the separating cartridge in position.

13. A liquid separator according to claim 12, wherein said locking members are locking projections.

14. A liquid separator according to claim 1, wherein said mounting member is provided with a return flow valve for separated liquid.

15. A liquid separator according to claim 1, wherein the mounting member is firmly attached to the cover.

16. A liquid separator according to claim 15, wherein the mounting member is welded to the cover.

17. A substantially cylindrical separating cartridge comprising a separating means wound around a support member with end disks on both axial end faces thereof; wherein said end disks together with the support member are engagable with a mount to form a sealed assembly

which divides a liquid separator into an untreated gas zone and a treated gas zone.

18. A liquid separator comprising a separating cartridge according to claim 17, integrated into an existing housing in an oil system of an internal combustion engine.